

25 MAR 1968

CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1968



Medical Officer of Health

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Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

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Technical Assistant

D.M. WIDGERY.

Clerk - Mrs. P.M. Gill.



Mr. Chairman & Members of the  
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my report for 1968.

The year proved to be one of improvement all the way round with the Sewage Disposal Works being almost completed and a site found for a new Public Convenience.

1969 should see the completion of these schemes which have been argued about for many years.

I would again express my gratitude to Mr. Pilley and Mr. Phelps of the Crediton R.D.C. for carrying out 100% meat inspection service and to Mr. Blake for the compilation of this report.

I would apologise for the delay in submitting this year's report but the disturbance caused by one member of the staff leaving a small office reacts in many ways and it is to be hoped that this matter can be overcome.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS.  
Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population	...					4,980
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1968 according to the rate book ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,846
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	£210,804
Product of Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£846

### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

#### (a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total 1968	Total 1967
50	42	92	68

#### Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total 1968	Total 1967
2	1	3	2

#### Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population

1968	18.5	1967	13.9
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(b) Still Births.

There was one still birth in 1968.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death rate.

Male	Female	Total 1968	Total 1967
30	31	61	63

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12.2

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality  
(Deaths of Infants under one year of age) Nil

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-

Malignant neoplasm	M	3							1	2	
Lung, Bronchus	F	-									

Malignant neoplasm											
Uterus	F	1									1

Other Malignant	M	3								2	1
Neoplasms etc.	F	4							1	1	2

Chronic Rheumatic	M	-									
Heart Disease	F	2								1	1

Hypertensive	M	1							1		
Disease	F	1									1

Ischaemic Heart	M	5							1	2	2
Disease	F	7							1	1	5

Other forms of	M	1									1
Heart Disease	F	2									2

Cerebrovascular	M	5						1		2	2
Disease	F	5							2		3





Causes of Death	Sex	All	Ages							
			0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65- 75-
Other Diseases of	M	2							1	1
Circulatory System	F	1							1	
Pneumonia	M	3								3
	F	4								4
Bronchitis and	M	2								2
Emphysema	F	1								1
Other Diseases of	M	1							1	
Respiratory System	F	-								
Peptic Ulcer	M	1						1		
	F	-								
Diseases of	M	1							1	
Musculo-Skeletal	F	1							1	
System										
Symptoms and ill-	M	1								1
defined Conditions	F	1								1
Motor Vehicle	M	1		1						
Accidents	F	-								
All other	M	-								
Accidents	F	1								1
Total all Causes	M	30		1			1	4	11	13
	F	31						4	5	22

three



## SECTION B

### 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### (a) Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

#### (b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by two Devon County Council Health Visitors.

#### (c) Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition home helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to either Mowbray House or The City Hospital, Exeter.

Child welfare and maternity clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1968 attendances were as follows:-

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Children 2-5</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1968</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1967</u>
1094	438	460	1992	2191

Vaccinations, diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of this service.

#### (d) Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.

There are no Centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.



(e) Mass Radiography.

Sessions in Crediton are arranged at fortnightly intervals and almost the whole population has now been screened.

(f) Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(g) Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service; at present one ambulance is stationed in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross

(h) Laboratory Works

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter at the new department of Pathology at Wonford.

(i) The Meals on Wheels service operated by the W.V.S. provided 2,856 meals during the year. Meals are provided by the Devon County Council kitchen at Newcombes and distributed by members of the W.V.S.



## SECTION C

### 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### (a) Sewerage.

The end of the year saw the new works at Lords Meadow practically completed although delay in delivery of certain sections of machinery proved frustrating.

Land irrigation was again carried out during the year but the effluent entering the river was of very poor quality indeed.

A sample of the effluent taken on 13th November, 1968 showed the following results:-

	<u>mg/litre</u>
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (five days at 20°C)	418
Suspended Solids (dried at 105°C) Total	184
-Non Volatile	44 = 24%.

The new works will require these figures to be reduced from 418 to 20 and from 184 to 30.

The pumping station at Fordton is almost complete and all the sewers for the area have been laid but the connections have not been started.

I think that it can be fairly safely said that 1968 was the last year for polluted rivers as far as Crediton is concerned.

#### (b) Water.

The North Devon Water Board continued to supply adequate amounts of water of good quality to the district.

77 water samples were taken during the year and 71 were satisfactory. The remaining 6 were initially unsatisfactory but immediate re-sampling produced satisfactory results.





(c) Public Conveniences.

Although no actual improvement was made in the public conveniences during the year the Council made a major step forward in obtaining planning permission to erect new conveniences in Newcombes Meadow.

The siting of these conveniences is such that after they are completed the Union Road conveniences can be closed.

(d) Refuse Collection & Disposal.

The new larger capacity rear loading vehicle arrived in the year and it enabled the Council to operate its kerbside collection service with a minimum of complaints.

Whilst collection appears satisfactory, disposal is the opposite and there now appears to be no way to adopt controlled tipping due to the extreme contours on the tip face and tip site. Crude tipping continues but it does not produce complaints except for blowing paper.

(e) Rodent Control.

Slightly more complaints were received during the year in rodent control work and was carried out as follows:-

Refuse Tip	4 visits	13 hours.
Schools	2 visits	2 hours.
Private Houses	11 visits	18 hours.

There does not appear to be any increase in the rodent population although complete eradication is not practical.

(f) Sanitary Inspections.

(1) Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	334
Private Houses	98
Food Premises	19
Offices, etc.	54
Slaughterhouses	151
Council Tip	56
Other Premises	44



(ii) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notice	1 property.
Undertaking given to repair	1 property.
Closing Order in respect of part of a Building	1 basement kitchen.

Public Health Acts.

Formal	2 properties.
Informal Notices	7 properties.

(g) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Inspections and registrations continued under this Act and details are:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>No. Registered</u>	<u>No. Inspected in 1968.</u>	<u>Total No. Inspected Since Act.</u>
Offices	22	8	22
Retail Shops	40	15	40
Catering Establishments	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>66</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>66</u>

A total of 54 visits were carried out during the year and only minor items were found to require attention.

No accidents were reported in shops and offices during the year.

SECTION D

5. HOUSING

General Housing

Six one bedroom bungalows of Parker Morris standard were erected at Churchill Drive.

eight



Private houses completed were:-

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Two Bedrooms	25	27
Three Bedrooms	19	24
Four Bedrooms	9	8
	<u>53</u>	<u>59</u>

28 houses were under construction on 1st January, 1968 and 19 under construction on 31st December, 1968.

### Slum Clearance.

Only two properties were demolished during the year these being No. 1, Tolleys and Blagdon Cottage.

### Housing List.

The position at the end of 1968 compared with previous years was:-

	1968	1967	1966	1965
No. on Council's Waiting List already resident in the Urban District.	95	89	108	73
No. on Council's Waiting List wanting to move into the town.	35	36	40	30
No. of key workers wanting accommodation.	<u>Nil</u> <u>130</u>	<u>2</u> <u>127</u>	<u>1</u> <u>149</u>	<u>Nil</u> <u>103</u>

Accommodation required by these families is:-

One Bedroom	58
Two Bedrooms	46
Three Bedrooms	22
Four Bedrooms	4



### Building Regulations.

The following inspections were made to enforce the Building Regulations:-

Footings	75
Foundations	67
Oversite concrete	41
Damp proof course	49
Drains	198
Routine	217
Completion	81

### Improvement Grants.

Standard Grant applications only were received during the year as follows:-

No. of applications received	6
No. of applications approved	6
No. of applications refused	-
No. of improvements completed	11
Amenities provided	
Baths	11
Basins	11
Hot water	10 ( 3 points)
supplies	1 ( 2 points)
W.C.'s	11
Food stores	11

Amount paid in Grants           £1,958.

### Caravan Sites.

No difficulties have arisen during the year, the three residential caravans at Glencreevy and their sites being maintained satisfactorily.

### Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received during the year under this Act.





## SECTION E

### 6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was surrendered as being unfit:-

Cooked Meats	15 lbs.
Canned Meats	26 lbs.
Other canned foods	88 lbs.
Other food	26 lbs.
	<u>-1 cwt 43 lbs.</u>

### Food Hygiene Regulations.

The details of food shops and their type are identical to those already provided in the 1966 report.

Shops continue to be properly maintained.

### Slaughter of Animals.

100% meat inspections required 151 visits to the slaughterhouse. Carcasses inspected were:-

	1968	1967	1966	1965
Cattle	280	336	308	295
Calves	15	25	30	19
Sheep & Lambs	1066	1156	1931	987
Pigs	682	713	783	749

The following carcasses and offal were condemned:-

Part Carcasses	1 Pig	120 lbs.
	1 beef	28 lbs.
	1 pork	2 lbs.
	1 lamb	2 lbs.
	offal	865 lbs.
	Pig's	
	head T.B.	185 lbs.



### Poultry Inspection.

Again no poultry inspection has been carried out and rejection is only done by spot checks carried out by the Factory Staff.

Figures supplied by the unit are:-

Birds processed in year	580,000
Type of bird	Hens only.
Rejected	16,000

### SECTION F

#### 7. FACTORIES.

26 inspections of factory premises were carried out during the year, there being 54 registered factories.

Two outworkers were notified by other authorities.

Three informal notices were served under Section 9 of the Act requiring works to sanitary conveniences.

### SECTION G

#### 8. NOISE.

Two complaints regarding noise were again concerned with the dairy.

The background level of noise seems slowly to build up and negotiations with the management bring about a considerable reduction of night noise level.



Appendix 1  
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned  
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	280	-	15	1066	682	Nil
Number inspected	280	-	15	1066	682	Nil
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis and</u>						
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	113	Nil	Nil	34	44	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	40.3	Nil	Nil	3.2	6.6	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	14	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.1	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





